AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

CLAIM 1 (currently amended):

1. A method of screening a Short Message Service (SMS) ~~or Multimedia Message Service (MMS)~~ call, comprising the steps of:

responsive to receipt of an SMS ~~or MMS~~ call in an originating SMS ~~or MMS~~ center for serving a calling party of said call, performing originating screening using data supplied by said calling party, for determining whether said calling party may attempt to complete a call to a called party of said call; and

responsive to determining in the originating SMS ~~or MMS~~ center that said calling party may attempt to complete said call, performing terminating screening in a SMS ~~or MMS~~ center for serving said called party of said call, using data supplied by said called party, for determining whether said called party of said call is willing to accept calls from said calling party;

wherein the step of performing terminating screening comprises determining in said SMS ~~or MMS~~ center for serving said called party whether said called party allows calls having characteristics of said call to be completed to said called party ~~and determining whether said called party has previously screened calls from said calling party~~;

responsive to determining that said called party does not allow calls having characteristics of said call to be completed, adding said calling party to a list of calling parties from which said called party is not willing to accept SMS calls.

CLAIM 2 (original):

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said calling party may attempt to complete said call comprises the steps of:

determining the number of destinations which said calling party is attempting to reach; and

rejecting said call if said number exceeds a limit defined by a class of service of said calling party.

CLAIM 3 (original):

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party comprises the steps of:

determining the number of destinations which said calling party is attempting to reach; and

rejecting said call if said number exceeds a limit defined by a class of service of said called party.

CLAIM 4 (original):

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said calling party of said call may attempt to complete said call comprises the step of testing for geographic allowability of a call to said called party in accordance with a class of service of said calling party.

CLAIM 5 (currently amended):

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said calling party may attempt to complete said call comprises the steps of:

testing whether said calling party may complete SMS or MMS calls to a roamer; and

if said calling party may not complete SMS or MMS calls to a roamer, determining whether said called party is a roamer and blocking said call if said called party is a roamer.

CLAIM 6 (currently amended):

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether a calling party of said call may attempt to complete said call comprises the step of testing whether a destination number of said called party is in a list of numbers to which said calling party may not complete SMS or MMS calls.

CLAIM 7 (original):

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said calling party may attempt to complete said call comprises the step of testing whether said calling party may originate a service type of said call.

CLAIM 8 (currently amended):

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls comprises the step of testing whether the keyword, subject, title, or URL of a web page of said SMS or MMS call is on a list of call types which said called party does not wish to receive.

CLAIM 9 (original):

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party comprises the step of testing whether the service type of said call is one which said called party is willing to accept.

CLAIM 10 (original):

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party comprises the step of testing whether a content classification of said call is one which said called party is willing to accept.

CLAIM 11 (currently amended):

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party comprises the step of determining whether said call identifies a merchant from which said called party does not wish to receive SMS ~~or MMS~~ calls.

CLAIM 12 (canceled)

CLAIM 13 (currently amended):

13. ~~In a Short Message Service (SMS) center, apparatus~~ Apparatus for screening ~~an~~ SMS ~~or MMS call~~ calls, comprising:

~~in a~~ an SMS center for serving a calling party of ~~said~~ an SMS call, comprising means, responsive to receipt of ~~an~~ said SMS call, for performing originating screening, using data supplied by said calling party for determining whether said calling party of said call may attempt to complete a call to a called party of said call; and

~~in a~~ an SMS ~~or MMS~~ center for serving a called party of said call, comprising means, responsive to determining that said calling party may attempt to complete said call, for performing terminating screening using data supplied by said called party, for determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party;

said means for performing terminating screening comprising means for determining whether aid called party allows calls having characteristics of said call to be completed to said called party;

said SMS center for serving said called party of said call comprising a list of calling parties from which said called party is not willing to accept calls;

said means for performing terminating screening comprising means, ~~for~~ responsive to determining ~~whether~~ that said called party ~~has allowed calls having characteristics of said call to be completed to said called party~~ does not allow calls having characteristics of said call to be completed, for adding said calling party to said list of calling parties from which said called party is not willing to accept SMS calls;

~~wherein said means for performing terminating screening further comprises means for determining whether said called party has screened calls from said calling party.~~

CLAIM 14 (currently amended):

14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the means for determining whether said calling party may attempt to complete said call ~~comprises~~ comprise:

means for determining the number of destinations which said calling party is attempting to reach; and

means for rejecting said call if said number exceeds a limit defined by a class of service of said calling party.

CLAIM 15 (currently amended):

15. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the means for determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party ~~comprises~~ comprise:

means for determining the number of destinations which said calling party is attempting to reach; and

means for rejecting said call if said number exceeds a limit defined by a class of service of said called party.

CLAIM 16 (original):

16. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the means for determining whether said calling party may attempt to complete said call comprises means for testing for geographic allowability of a call to said called party in accordance with a class of service of said calling party.

CLAIM 17 (currently amended):

17. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the means for determining whether said calling party may attempt to complete said call comprises:

means for testing whether said calling party may complete SMS ~~or MMS~~ calls to a roamer; and

means, responsive to determining that said calling party may not complete SMS ~~or MMS~~ calls to a roamer, for determining whether said called party is a roamer and blocking said call if said called party is a roamer.

CLAIM 18 (currently amended):

18. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the means for determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls comprises means for testing whether the keyword, subject, title, or URL of a web page of said SMS ~~or MMS~~ call is on a list of call types which said called party does not wish to receive.

CLAIM 19 (currently amended):

19. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the means for determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party comprises means for determining whether said call identifies a merchant from which said called party does not wish to receive SMS ~~or MMS~~ calls.

CLAIM 20 (original):

20. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the means for determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party comprises means for testing whether a language of said call is one which said called party is willing to receive.

CLAIM 21 (canceled)

CLAIM 22 (new):

22. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

said called party having an option to prevent said adding of said calling party to said list.

CLAIM 23 (new):

23. The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising means for providing said called party with an option to prevent said adding said calling party to said list.